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Message Text

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46
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 OPIC-06 DHA-02

SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-07

COME-00 ORM-02 AID-05 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 /120 W
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P R 241653Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5086
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS LISBON 6986

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SOPN, AO, PO
SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN LISBON PRESS

SUMMARY: MPLA CLAIMS MILITARY SUCCESSES IN AREA NORTHEAST OF LUANDA. MPLA WILL REPORTEDLY CLOSE FRENCH CONGEN AND PENALIZE FRENCH FIRMS IF FRANCE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA GOVERNMENT. FORMER PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER RETURNS TO LISBON. UNITA REPRESENTATIVE ASKS REFUGEES TO RETURN TO ANGOLA. END UNCLASSIFIED

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SUMMARY.

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1. MPLA CLAIMS MILITARY SUCCESSES: COMMUNIST-LINING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (DN) NOV 24 QUOTED MPLA COMMANDER JUJU AS DENYING THAT MPLA HAD LOST MALANGE, AND CLAIMING THAT MPLA CONTROLLED UCUA, PIRI AND QUIBAXE ON ROAD NORTHEAST OF LUANDA. ACCORDING TO JUJU, FNLA, AFTER ITS DEFEAT IN CAXITO-BARRA DO DANDE-LIBONGO TRIANGLE, LAUNCHED MAJOR OFFENSIVE LAST WEEK IN SAMBA CAJU AREA, WITH OBJECTIVE OF REACHING DALATANDO (FORMERLY SALAZAR) AND DONDO AND OCCUPYING CAMBAMBE DAM NEAR DONDO, BUT WAS REPULSED NEAR SAMBA CAJU BY MPLA. MPLA FORCES, SAID JUJU, THEN LAUNCHED COUNTER-OFFENSIVE CAPTURING SAMBA CAJU, AND ARE NOW PROGRESSING NORTHWARD TOWARD PAMBOS AND CAMABATELA. JUJU ADDED THAT MPLA HAD LAUNCHED OFFENSIVE AGAINST QUITEXE, SOUTH OF CARMONA. HE STATED MPLA HAD TAKEN OFFENSIVE SOUTH OF LUANDA AND HAD RETAKEN ITS POSITIONS IN CITY OF NOVO REDONDO, AMID HEAVY FIGHTING. ACCORDING TO COMMUNIST-LINING "O SECULO" NOV 24, MPLA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION LUIS DE ALMEIDA, AT A PRESS CONFERENCE NOV 22, DENIED THAT MPLA HAD LOST PORTO AMBOIM AND GABELA, SOUTH OF LUANDA. DN QUOTED ALMEIDA AS ACCUSING REUTERS, UPI, AND AFP OF PUBLISHING FALSE REPORTS ON ANGOLAN SITUATION.

2. MPLA WARNS FRANCE ON RECOGNITION: "O SECULO" NOV 24 CARRIED ANOP/AFP REPORT THAT, ACCORDING TO SOURCES CLOSE TO MPLA, IF FRANCE DOES NOT RECOGNIZE MPLA GOVT IT WILL HAVE TO CLOSE ITS CONSULATE GENERAL IN LUANDA AND FRENCH FIRMS IN ANGOLA MAY "SUFFER REPERCUSSIONS."

3. EX-HIGH COMMISSIONER RETURNS: ADM. LEONEL CARDOSO, FORMER PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN ANGOLA, ARRIVED IN LISBON BY SHIP NOV 23. UPON ARRIVAL CARDOSO TOLD PRESS THAT ANY ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT MUST INCLUDE MPLA, SINCE MPLA HELD ENTIRE ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY IN ITS HANDS, AND ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE MPLA COULD NOT LAST. RE DISPOSITION OF PORTUGUESE EQUIPMENT IN ANGOLA, CARDOSO STATED THAT HEAVIEST WEAPONS HAD BEEN BROUGHT BACK TO LISBON, WHILE "MATERIAL WHICH COULD BE USEFUL TO ANGOLANS AND WHICH WAS NOT ABSOLUTELY INDISPENSABLE" IN PORTUGAL WAS LEFT IN LUANDA. "WE DID NOT WANT TO LOOT ANGOLA BEFORE LEAVING," HE SAID. HE CHARACTERIZED REPORT THAT PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES HAD DESTROYED MATERIAL THEY UNCLASSIFIED

COULD NOT BRING BACK AS A "LIE," STATING THAT ONLY OLD, USELESS AMMUNITION, AS WELL AS WEAPONS FOR WHICH THERE WAS NO LONGER ANY AMMUNITION, HAD BEEN DESTROYED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD LEFT WEAPONS IN MANY LOCATIONS, ADDING THAT THESE WEAPONS WOULD NOT DECIDE OUTCOME OF CONFLICT, WHICH IS ALREADY CHARACTERIZED BY USE OF MUCH HEAVIER WEAPONS. CARDOSO STATED THAT HE HAD LEFT ANGOLA FEELING PITY FOR ANGOLANS, WHO WERE KILLING THEMSELVES FOR FOREIGN INTERESTS, BUT KNOWING HE HAD ACCOMPLISHED HIS

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MISSION OF NOT TURNING POWER OVER TO ONLY ONE MOVEMENT.

4. DN NOV 24 REPORTED THAT AT A MEETING OF ANGOLAN REFUGEES IN OPORTO DURING WEEKEND, A UNITA REPRESENTATIVE ASKED THAT REFUGEES RETURN TO ANGOLA. REPORT CLAIMED THAT MANY REFUGEES ARE PLANNING TO DO SO.
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